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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2016  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#) [BO](#) [EC](#)  
SUBJECT: GOE TO VOTE YES ON IRAN, DPRK; ABSTAIN ON BELARUS

REF: A. STATE 187018

[1](#)B. STATE 184178

Classified By: PolChief Erik Hall for reasons 1.4 (B&D)

[1](#)1. (SBU) PolChief conveyed Ref A points to Ambassador Gonzalo Salvador, MFA U/S for Multilateral Affairs, on November 15, and followed up our November 8 approach on related Ref B issues.

[1](#)2. (C) Salvador said Ecuador planned to follow the GRULAC consensus and planned to abstain on Belarus' "Situation in the U.S." resolution; abstain on the "Secret Detention" resolution; vote in favor of Belarus' "Promotion of Equitable Dialogue" resolution, with reservations seeking to broaden the scope country resolutions from genocide to "grave and persistent human rights abuses, and unresponsiveness to UN resolutions"; abstain on our Belarus resolution; and vote in favor of the resolutions condemning the human rights situations in Iran and DPRK resolutions.

[1](#)3. (C) Salvador said the GOE abstentions on the two Belarus resolutions were in recognition of the politically-motivated nature of those resolutions, which were part of a diplomatic "game" the GOE prefers to avoid. PolChief urged a clear "no" vote to signal GOE rejection of these motivations; an abstention would be equivalent to a "yes" vote. Salvador dismissed this argument, repeating that the GOE would respect GRULAC consensus.

[1](#)4. (C) PolChief pressed for a GOE "no" vote against the spurious Belarus resolution on the human rights situation in the U.S., urging reconsideration. Abstention by the GOE, a human rights defender, would not be understood in the U.S.--the assertions in the resolution are patently false and unjustified. Salvador offered, however, to urge his PermRep to seek to change the GRULAC consensus from abstention to a "no" vote, but did not commit outright to change the GOE's vote, absent a change in the GRULAC consensus.

[1](#)5. (C) Comment: This GOE continues to slavishly follow the GRULAC consensus on all controversial issues, rarely seeking to actively shape that consensus itself. We would be very surprised by any effective advocacy from the GOE to change that consensus at this late stage.  
JEWELL